CLAIMS

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for alleviating an antibody-mediated inflammatory autoimmune disorder in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of:

   an IL-16 activity inhibitor,

   a RANTES activity inhibitor,

   and combinations thereof.

2. The method of claim1 wherein the compound is an IL-16 activity inhibitor.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is a RANTES activity inhibitor.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is a combination of an IL-16 activity inhibitor and a RANTES activity inhibitor.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of

   rapamycin,

   wortmannin,

   PD098059, SB203580 and

   combinations thereof.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is rapamycin.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is PD098059.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is a combination of rapamycin, PD098059, SB203580, or combination thereof.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the antibody-mediated inflammatory autoimmune disorder is selected from the group consisting of:

Graves' disease, thyroid ophthalmopathy,

vitiligo,

leukemia,

rheumatoid arthritis,

lymphoma,

lupus,

pemphigus,

adrenal failure,

polyglandular failure,

Type I diabetes.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the antibody-mediated inflammatory autoimmune disorder is Thyroid-Associated Ophthalmopathy.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the mammal is a human.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is administered orally, enterically, intravenously, peritoneally, subcutaneously, transdermally, parenterally, or rectally.

13. A method of detecting antibody-activated fibroblasts in a patient comprising

obtaining a biological sample from the patient and

measuring the level of an analyte chosen from the group consisting of

IL-16,

RANTES,

and combinations thereof

wherein an elevated level of the analyte indicates antibody-activated fibroblasts in the patient.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the level of analyte is measured by Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA).

15. The method of claim 13 wherein the analyte is IL-16.

16. The method of claim 13 wherein the analyte is RANTES.

17. The method of claim 13 wherein the analyte is a combination of IL-16 and RANTES.

18. The method of claim 13 wherein the patient is human.

19. The method of claim 13 wherein the biological sample is selected from a group consisting of:

blood,

urine,

synovial fluid,

ascites,

tissue.

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